

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA2005/000097

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER C23C-08/24														
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC ⁷														
B. FIELDS SEARCHED														
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C23C-08/24; C23C-08/36; C22F-01/00; C22F-01/02; C22F-01/11.														
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched														
Electronic database(s) consulted during the international search (name of database(s) and, where practicable, search terms used) QUESTEL-ORBIT; DELPHION (incl. Derwent); ESPACENET; WEST; CPD.														
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT														
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No(s).												
Y	US 5208412 (SHETTY, H.R. et al.), 3 May 1994 (03-05-1994) abstract; col. 2, lines 21-34; 56-61; col. 7, lines 19-26.	1-35												
Y	Tek Z. et al. "Comparison of the mechanical properties of nitrogen ion implantation and micro-pulsed plasma nitriding techniques of Cr-Ni alloy", Surface and Coatings Technology, vol.158-159, pp.157-163, 1 September 2002 (01-09-1992).	1-35												
Y	Alves C. et al. "The effect of pulse width on the microstructure of d.c.-plasma-nitrided layers", Surface and Coatings Technology, vol.122, no.2-3, pp.112-117, 15 December 1999 (15-12-1999).	1-35												
Y	Blawert C. et al. "Surface treatment of nitriding steel 34CrAlNi7: a comparison between pulsed plasma nitriding and plasma immersion ion implantation, Surface and Coatings Technology, vol.98, no.1-3, pp. 1181-1186, January 1998 (01-1998).	1-35												
Y	Kim Y.S. et al. "Plasma diffusion treatment of stellite", Surface and Coatings Technology, vol.74-75, no.1-3, pp.425-430, 1 September 1995	1-35												
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.														
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>* Special categories of cited documents :</td> <td>"I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"B" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td> <td>"&" document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			* Special categories of cited documents :	"I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	"B" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family	"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 14 April 2005 (14-04-2005)		Date of mailing of the international search report 02 June 2005 (02-06-2005)												
Name and mailing address of the ISA/CA Canadian Intellectual Property Office Place du Portage I, C114 - 1st Floor, Box PCT 50 Victoria Street Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0C9 Facsimile No.: 001(819)953-2476		Authorized officer Michael M. Morgovsky (819) 953-0765												

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Information on patent family members

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Patent Document Cited in Search Report	Publication Date	Patent Family Member(s)	Publication Date
US5308412	03-05-1994	none	